



# Nebraska Weather and Crops

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Nebraska Field Office

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**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending April 30, 2006, rainfall across the eastern third of the state halted planting activities over the weekend, while the western half of Nebraska and especially the southwest remained mostly dry, according to USDA National Agricultural Statistic Service, Nebraska Field Office. Moisture accumulations over the southwest during April averaged less than 40 percent of normal. Freezing temperatures during the week raised concerns for wheat in the joint stage. Field activities included applying fertilizer and chemicals, planting corn, working ground, and preparing to move livestock to pasture.

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures ranged from 4 to 8 degrees below normal for the week. The western two-thirds of the state saw freezing temperatures in the 20's last week. The eastern third of the state recorded the most precipitation with some reports of 3 inches.

### Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending April 30, 2006

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
<b>Topsoil</b>				
Very Short	3	6	1	8
Short	22	31	7	19
Adequate	72	63	86	71
Surplus	3	0	6	2
<b>Subsoil</b>				
Very Short	15	15	10	20
Short	26	31	27	37
Adequate	58	54	61	42
Surplus	1	0	2	1
<b>Days Suitable</b>	3.9	6.3	4.2	4.5

**Field Crops Report:** Wheat conditions declined slightly last week and rated 5 percent very poor, 11 poor, 34 fair, 44 good, and 6 excellent, below last year. Wheat jointed was at 38 percent, behind 58 percent last year but even with the five-year average.

Corn planted made noticeable progress and rose to 39 percent complete. This is ahead of last year's 30 percent and the five-year average of 32. Corn emerged was at 3 percent, near last year and average.

Soybean planting was underway across the state and 3 percent complete. This is behind last year's 4 but even with the five-year average.

Alfalfa conditions improved last week and rated 2 percent poor, 21 fair, 57 good, and 20 excellent. This rating is better than last year for the first time this season.

Oat planting increased to 96 percent, ahead of last year at 94 and the average of 89. Oats emerged was at 64 percent, behind 68 percent last year but ahead of the 59 percent average.

Sugarbeet planting jumped considerably due to the dry weather in the west and was 86 percent complete, ahead of last year at 55 and 68 average.

### Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending April 30, 2006

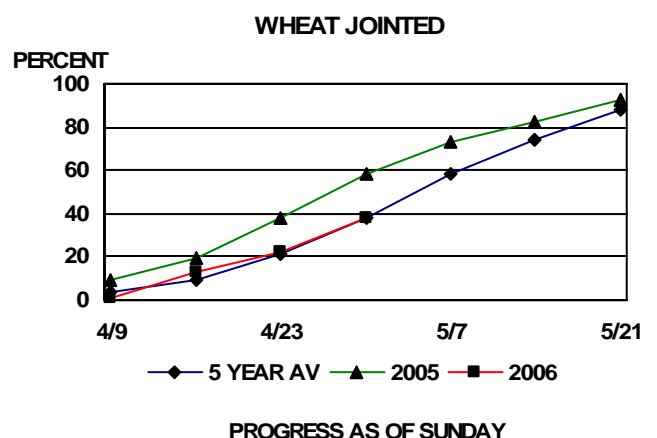
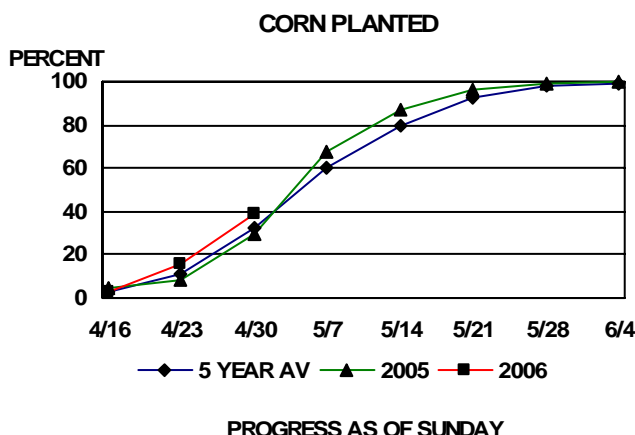
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Emerged	3	0	3	4
Corn Planted	39	16	30	32
Oats Planted	96	87	94	89
Oats Emerged	64	35	68	59
Soybeans Planted	3	0	4	3
Wheat Jointed	38	22	58	38

### Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending April 30, 2006

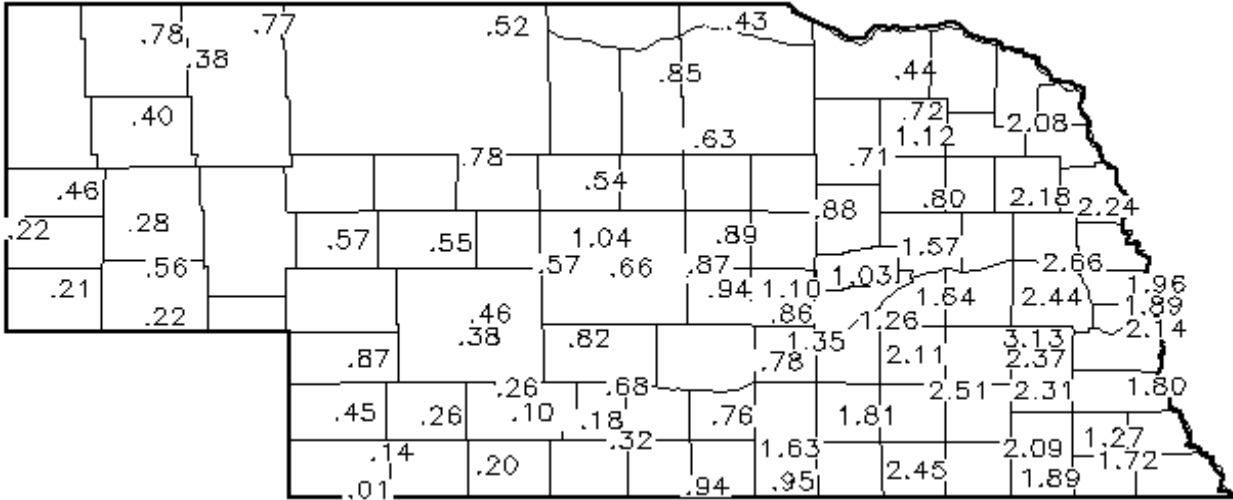
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	0	2	21	57	20
Wheat	5	11	34	44	6

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Pasture and range conditions improved and rated 1 percent very poor, 6 poor, 27 fair, 58 good, and 8 excellent, above last year. Cattle and calf condition continued to rate mostly good. Spring calving was 95 percent complete, same as year ago levels. Calf losses continued to rate average to below average.

*This release is based on data from FSA county directors, extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts\\_cur.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm).*



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. April 30, 2006



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 – April 30, 2006

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.43	.80	1.15	.90	2.05	.30	.63	1.92
Total since April 1	1.05	3.42	3.44	1.91	3.54	.72	1.20	3.89
Normal since April 1	1.75	2.10	2.50	2.39	2.67	1.86	2.01	2.74
Total as % of normal	59%	165%	138%	80%	132%	38%	59%	140%

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, April 30, 2006

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Average	Departure
		High	Low		
NW	Alliance	71	26	45	-6
	Scottsbluff	74	28	46	-4
	Sidney	73	21	44	-8
NC	Ainsworth	71	27	47	-8
	Arthur	76	26	46	-8
	O'Neill	72	27	48	-7
NE	Concord	67	29	49	-7
	Elgin	72	31	49	-6
	West Point	73	30	50	-6
C	Grand Island	78	29	50	-5
	Lexington	80	28	50	-4
	Ord	75	26	49	-5
EC	Central City	74	29	50	-5
	Lincoln	74	38	53	-5
	Mead	74	33	51	-6
SW	Champion	81	22	47	-7
	Dickens	82	24	48	-6
	McCook	78	23	50	-4
SC	Minden	82	26	50	-4
	Red Cloud	78	26	51	-4
	Smithfield	79	27	50	-4
SE	Beatrice	72	33	51	-6
	Clay Center	77	29	49	-6
	Nemaha	76	38	54	-4

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office